

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please replace the paragraph starting on line 8 on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:*

In present description, the large-sized pore portion and the small-sized pore portion are defined as follows. When the porous membrane is divided into a desired number of part (e.g. ten divisions) along the thickness thereof, the large-sized pore portion is a membrane portion wherein the section density is 40% or below and the small-sized pore portion is a membrane portion wherein the section density exceeds 40%. The measurement of the section density is carried out such that a membrane portion of an electron micrograph at a magnification of 1500 of a section of the porous membrane is taken in a scanner at 300 dpi on a 8 bits gray scale, the resulting image is binarized while taking an average value of scale values containing 5% of black element from a black color side and also from white color side as a border line, thereby determining a ratio of the ~~black~~ white element as a section density.

*Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 31 and 32 with the following amended paragraph:*

The measurement of the section density was carried out at individual divisions after division of a porous membrane into 10 parts along a thickness thereof. The section density was determined in such a way as set out hereinbefore, i.e. a membrane portion of an electron micrograph at a magnification of 1500 of a section of each porous membrane is taken in a scanner at 300 dpi on a 8 bits gray scale, the resulting image is binarized while taking an average value of scale values containing

5% of a black element from a black color side and also from white color side as a border line, thereby determining the density from a ratio of the ~~black~~ white element.